

3 April 2014

## Volunteer Oilseed Rape (OSR) in Sugar Beet

Increasingly OSR volunteers tend to be one of the more prolific broad-leaved weeds found in sugar beet as the two crops are frequently grown in the same rotation. At all of the United Phosphorus Ltd (UPL) sugar beet herbicide trials sites in 2013 volunteer OSR put in an appearance and was particularly prevalent at the site in Suffolk (Photo.1 taken on 1 July 2013). At this site in untreated plots at the end of the season numbers had reached 19 plants/m<sup>2</sup>.

In experiments in Sweden it was reported that one oilseed rape plant/m<sup>2</sup> could result in the loss of 500 kg/ha of sugar. Another frequently quoted figure by the BBRO is 'one tall weed/m<sup>2</sup> can reduce yields by 11%'.

In recent years we have become quite adept at controlling volunteer OSR, the inclusion of the active triflurosulfuron-methyl, as in Debut and Safari Lite WSG, proving particularly effective. One of the annoying features with volunteer OSR can be its prolonged emergence pattern with the first cotyledons emerging at the same time as the sugar beet crop and further flushes 'popping' through just after the sprayer has been packed away. So is it time to review how we control this 'weed', especially if it is the main weed species present and we have gappy crops late in the season?

Graph 1 (Volunteer OSR – Suffolk) on page 2, shows the results from four different programmes on the control of volunteer OSR and Table 1 below, shows the rates and timings of products used. There is no significant difference between the results but there are some interesting points to note.



Photo 1: Volunteer OSR

**Table 1. Rates and Timings**

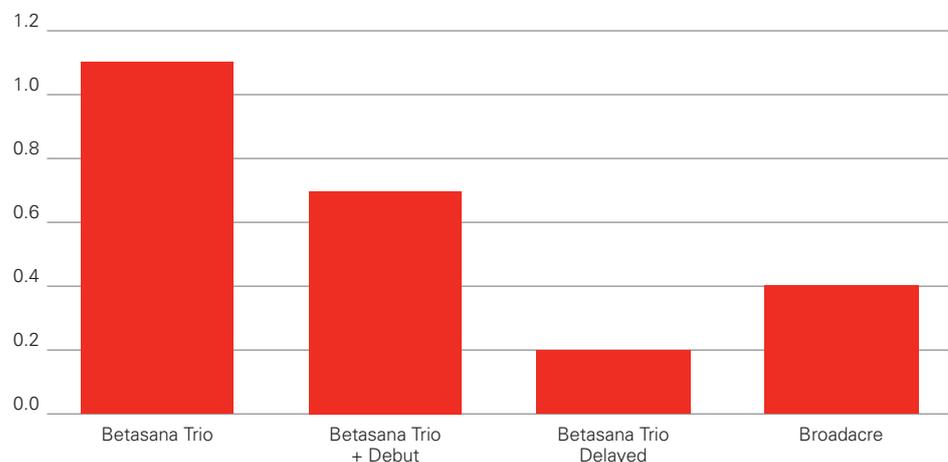
Programme	Products	Rate/ha	Application Date
<b>Betasana Trio</b>	Betasana Trio + Bettix Flo	1.5 + 0.75	1 May
	Betasana Trio + Venzar + Oil	2.0 + 0.4	16 May
	Betasana Trio + Bettix Flo + Oil	2.5 + 1.0	25 May
<b>Betasana Trio Delayed</b>	Betasana Trio + Bettix Flo + Oil	1.75 + 0.75	16 May
	Betasana Trio + Venzar + Oil	2.0 + 0.4	25 May
	Betasana Trio + Bettix Flo + Oil	2.5 + 1.0	16 June
<b>Betasana Trio + Debut</b>	Betasana Trio + Bettix Flo	1.5 + 0.75	1 May
	Betasana Trio + Venzar + Debut + Oil	2.0 + 0.4 + 15g	16 May
	Betasana Trio + Bettix Flo + Debut + Oil	2.5 + 1.0 + 15g	25 May
<b>Broadacre</b>	Beetup Compact SC + Ethofol 500 + Venzar + Bettix Flo + Debut + Oil	2.0 + 0.4 + 0.4 + 0.5 + 20g	16 May
	Beetup Compact SC + Ethofol 500 + Venzar + Bettix Flo + Debut + Oil	2.0 + 0.4 + 0.4 + 0.5 + 30g	25 May

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## Graph 1. Volunteer OSR – Suffolk

Plants/m<sup>2</sup>



Source: UPL Suffolk 2013 Dewar Crop Protection  
Assessed: 4 July 2013  
LSD: 3.07  
CV: 56.4

## Key Findings

The inclusion of triflusaluron-methyl in a programme was not essential to give good control of volunteer OSR. This could be useful if the volunteers were Clearfield OSR. The best results were from a delayed programme of Betasana Trio. Using the delayed approach meant that late germinating OSR were controlled but the programme was also effective on the early emerged OSR which were getting big at the time of spraying (See Photo 2.) There was also no requirement for a fourth spray.

The two spray Broadacre approach meant that a pass with the sprayer was saved, which impacts positively on labour costs. The three spray conventional Betasana Trio programme resulted in just over 1 plant/m<sup>2</sup> of OSR being left, in a 'gappy' crop a further spray would have been required.

## Conclusions

There are a number of ways to control volunteer OSR in sugar beet the programme selected will vary according to other weeds present, crop establishment, weather conditions and labour availability.

Further information and in-season trials can be found at [www.uplsugarbeet.co.uk](http://www.uplsugarbeet.co.uk)



Photo 2: OSR sprayed with Betasana Trio

Betasana Trio contains ethofumesate, phenmedipham + desmedipham.

Bettix Flo contains metamitron.

Beetup Compact contains phenmedipham + desmedipham.

Information in this update does not constitute a recommendation, it is for guidance only. Up to date information can be found on our website [www.upleurope.com](http://www.upleurope.com).

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Use plant protection products safely.

Always read the label and product information before use.

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